

more time with his parents in Syracuse, NY. He also is starting a corporate consulting company and will remain active within the Delaware business community.

Tony lives with his wife Susan in Hockessin, DE. They have five children, Brian, Carrie, Heather, Meghan, and Dylan.

Through his tireless efforts, Tony Felicia has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and enhanced the quality of life for our State. Upon his retirement, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for both his children and for generations that will follow. I thank him for the friendship that we share, and I congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them.●

HONORING DR. CARL TAYLOR

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about a committed and pioneering individual, Dr. Carl Taylor, the assistant dean and director of the Center for Strategic Health Innovation at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Taylor earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Marshall University, a juris doctor from the University of Miami, and is a Fellow at the Royal Institution in London. He serves on the State of Alabama's Department of Public Health bioterrorism advisory board and has been the principal investigator on nearly a dozen disaster related grants, including the grant that developed the Alabama incident management software system which he superbly presented recently to the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness.

This software system, referred to as AIMS, is an online hospital surge capacity and surge capability management tool used to support public health efforts during large-scale disaster response. This easy-to-use system shows which hospitals have available beds, staff, and equipment in real time while allowing hospitals to request help or offer assistance to one another. During Hurricane Katrina, AIMS was the software tool used by the Alabama Department of Public Health to manage information from 83 hospitals and 7 medical needs shelters. AIMS was vital to Alabama's outstanding performance in delivering quality medical care to vulnerable individuals in a time of crisis.

I commend Dr. Taylor for his leadership and creativity in developing this system that has application for the entire country. His work has the potential to save lives and reduce cost. This spirit of ingenuity is what keeps America strong.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the United States and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annexes and Protocol, signed at Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4, 2005. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded since 1999 and the first negotiated on the basis of a new U.S. model BIT text, which was completed in 2004. The new model text draws on long-standing U.S. BIT principles, our experience with Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the executive branch's collaboration with the Congress in developing negotiating objectives on foreign investment for U.S. free trade agreements. The Treaty will establish investment protections that will create more favorable conditions for U.S. investment in Uruguay and assist Uruguay in its efforts to further develop its economy.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy towards international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. investment policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment and most-favored-nation treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; and the opportunity of investors to choose to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations, and commitments to transparency and public participation in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to

the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 4, 2006.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Mr. CHOCOLA of Indiana.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), the order of the House of December 18, 2005, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress for a term of 6 years, effective April 1, 2006: Mr. William L. Kinney of South Carolina.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 609. An act to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar:

S. 598. A bill to reauthorize provisions in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 relating to Native Hawaiian low-income housing and Federal loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the reduction in troop strength of the Army National Guard and proposed cuts in the force structure of the Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 229

Whereas, on January 18, 2006, the Secretary of the Army announced a plan to eliminate 6 combat brigades from the Army National Guard nationwide and to reduce the authorized troop strength of the Army National Guard from 350,000 to 333,000; and